From: Marya Axner
To: Robert McWatters
Subject: Weekly Calendar and New Kolot Blog Post
Date: Monday, April 10, 2017 12:46:17 PM

Take action with the JLC: Click here to view our NE JLC Events & Actions Calendar.

In this email:

- New Kolot Blog Post: "You Are Standing with Us, So I Want To Stand with You"
- Wednesday, April 12 (*We understand that some people are observing chag and others are not. We want to give you a choice about your attendance and participation based on your Jewish practice.)*
    - 2 p.m. | SEIU Day of Action
    - 3:30-5 p.m. | Support Northeastern Dining Services Workers
- On-going Raise Up Massachusetts legislative efforts

Details below. Wishing you all a happy Passover!

New Kolot Blog Post: "You Are Standing with Us, So I Want To Stand with You"

Click here to read the full opening remarks from this year's Labor Seder.

Many of you have seen me at protests carrying my Jewish Labor Committee sign. Almost every time I'm out there with my sign, someone comes up to me and says, "What's the Jewish Labor Committee?" and I give them my elevator speech: "We engage the Jewish community in issues that affect workers and we engage the Labor

Community in issues that affect Jews." And then I ask them, no matter how they look, "Are you Jewish?"

And then often I have the pleasure of hearing some amazing story about this person that's not a yes-no answer: like, "Well, my mother is Latina from Argentina and her parents were Holocaust survivors but I didn't know I was Jewish until my grandmother died." Or, "I'm Iranian and my father is Jewish, but we are also Muslim." Or, "My parents are Jewish but we don't go to synagogue, but we celebrated Passover and my dad worked as a organizer." So after I listen to these wonderful stories, I invite this person to get involved in the Jewish Labor Committee.

So now I'll tell you another story: About a month after the last Labor Seder, Verizon went out on strike. And there was a big protest out at Government Center, a few steps from our office. So a few people and I from the JLC went out to go to the protest. I carried several extra JLC signs in case I ran into other JLC people who wanted to hold one.

Shortly after we got there a man with a red Verizon T-shirt, clearly a Verizon worker, comes up to me and says, "Can I hold one of your signs?" I said "sure, and tell me, are you Jewish?" He answers, "No." I say "Okay, so why do you want to hold one of our signs?" And he answers, "You are standing with us, so I want to stand with you."

I'll say it again because this is the most important part of what I have to say tonight: "You are standing with us, so I want to stand with you." Now isn't that the whole point? Isn't that what we are doing here tonight and in most of our work?

Read the full post here.

SEIU Massachusetts Day of Action

When: Wednesday, April 12 | 2:00 p.m.
Where: Front steps of the State House, Beacon St. entrance

Click here to view the Facebook event.

Join SEIU Local 509, SEIU Local 888, 1199 SEIU, 32BJ SEIU, Massachusetts SEIU, and Congresswoman Katherine Clark during the Congressional recess period for a day of action to continue our fight for social, racial and economic justice for all.

Despite attempts to advance an extreme and divisive federal agenda that hurts working families, workers across Massachusetts are uniting with our allies to ensure the Commonwealth continues to lead the nation on affordable healthcare coverage, inclusion and economic justice.

Support Northeastern Dining Services Workers

When: Wednesday, April 12 | 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Where: Centennial Common Quad, Northeastern University view campus map here

Click here to view the Facebook event.

Last fall, Harvard dining services workers, represented by UNITE HERE Local 26, went out on strike. After almost four weeks and with tremendous community support, they won. We are proud to have supported the strike in many ways. The Harvard workers have inspired other workers, across the country and across industry, to fight for what they deserve.

On Wednesday, April 12, Northeastern food service workers in UNITE HERE Local 26 will officially launch their campaign for a fair contract. We hope to see another victory for university food service workers whose work is integral to our area's schools.

On-Going Raise Up Massachusetts Legislative Efforts

If you are interested in getting involved with the legislative work of Raise Up Massachusetts, including phone banking and attending in-district meetings with State Senators and Representatives, **please email our Program Associate, Jenna, at jenna.nejlc@gmail.com**. There will be opportunities to phone bank from the JALSA/JLC office or from home

each Wednesday.

The Raise Up Massachusetts coalition is working on 3 key pieces of legislation:

- Paid Family and Medical Leave
- Fight for $15: Raising the minimum wage to $15/hour & eliminating the tipped subminimum wage
- Fair Share Amendment/progressive taxation

Chag kasher v'same'ach! Happy Passover!

Sincerely yours,
Marya Axner

Join us by becoming a JLC member here.

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18 Tremont Street, Suite 320, Boston, MA 02108
Email: **NewEnglandJLC@jewishlabor.org**
Phone: 617 227 0888
newenglandjewishlabor.org

New England Jewish Labor Committee, 18 Tremont St., Suite 320, Boston, MA 02108

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